

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Office of Special Services to Business and Industry
6 Washington Square, New York 3, N. Y.

October 14, 1957

Mr. Daniel S. Anthony
Executive Director
Mayor's Commission on Group Relations
Room 214, City Hall
Newark 2, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Anthony:

Re: Memorandum October 9, 1957.

Your request for a reply by October 15 dictates the brevity of this answer.

I would like to make two introductory statements:

There are many causes for migration within the city and into suburbia. Escape from "invasion" by "unwanted" and "undesirable" and unknown new neighbor groups is only one of them.

It will be the intensive character of interviews rather than their numbers which will produce the answers to the questions whether and to what degree intergroup tension and animosity are the decisive reasons for movements to leave a neighborhood or a city.

Efforts to improve intergroup understanding should in many cases result in neighborhood stability. There are other means which must be tried, i.e. consultative help to the substantial number of city dwellers who plan to move into suburbia while they are economically unable to afford it.

The study in question must reveal in what areas of the city and to what degree intergroup tension, hostility and fear are de facto the determining causes for negative relationships of the residents toward their neighborhoods and what methods geared toward the improvement of these relationships are most promising.

I. The study will consist of five parts:

- A. To collect data from statistical sources (census, etc.) and from studies previously undertaken in Newark on housing, schools, recreational and intergroup problems.
- B. To compare with Newark situations and experiences in comparable cities elsewhere in the country. To evaluate educational and action programs successfully tried in other places as to their applicability in the Newark situation.
- C. To make an intensive investigation of three neighborhoods (basically unchanged, in the process of change and changed) to discover and analyze the attitudes of local residents toward their neighborhood and toward the community as a whole. This investigation should produce answers to the question which specific local conditions, behavior patterns or conception of intergroup living formulate the relationship of the local

resident to his neighborhood and suggest attitudes conducive to remaining in the neighborhood or leaving it.

- D. To check in three additional neighborhoods (of the kind mentioned under "C") whether the findings of the study in the three intensively investigated neighborhoods apply also to them or what additional observations should be made.
- E. To interview key persons in the following fields:

Municipal departments such as housing, parks, sanitation, school, recreation.

Representatives of business and industrial establishments.

Managers and owners of public accommodations such as restaurants, hotels, places of amusement, bus lines.

Leaders of organizations concerned with intergroup relations.

Church leaders.

Union officials.

Officers of social agencies.

II. The study methods:

- I. A. and B.: self evident.
- C. A sample method will be carefully prepared so that--depending on the ethnic and socio-economic variations within each neighborhood--150 to 250 intensive interviews in each neighborhood will produce the data which will permit locally correct generalizations.
- D. The findings of the intensive study of three neighborhoods will be used as the basis for interviewing about 100 residents in three additional neighborhoods picked for this checking procedure.
- E. In each of the categories mentioned from 6 to 10 people will be asked to submit to intensive interviewing.

III. The study will result in a detailed report containing:

- A. Description of the methods applied for fact finding and analysis.
- B. The findings with regard to each neighborhood involved in the study and the generalizations so far as permissible for the community as a whole. These findings will include some factual information about:
 - a. Conditions of residential, educational, recreational, shopping, etc., facilities.

- b. Changes in population structure as they occurred within the last decade and as they can be expected within the next years to come.
- c. Reasons why approaches, methods and programs toward neighborhood stability proved to be effective in one were ineffective in other neighborhoods.
- d. The socio-economic strata to which the members of the white population groups belong who express their intention to leave the neighborhood or the community.
- e. The impact of Puerto Rican immigration as a specific phenomenon on population changes in specific neighborhoods and in the community as a whole.

C. Conclusions with regard to:

- a. Local patterns of community changes as they developed and as they are predicted for the near future.
- b. Improvement of physical neighborhood conditions as important factors in the resident's consideration to stay or to move.
- c. Attitudes, conceptions, behavior affecting adversely intergroup living, which might be changed by educational means.
- d. The impact of past and expected migration of specific groups, such as Italians, Jews, Irish on the attitudes of other groups and their intention of remaining in the neighborhood or leaving it.

- /* D. Recommendations for specific informative, educational and action programs geared toward the improvement of intergroup relations as they exist in the individual neighborhoods. These recommendations will offer responses to immediate as well as long range needs.

You can be assured that the results of the study will qualify to serve as basis and as guide for future programs and activities initiated by your Commission. To promise--within the time and budget available--more extended research seems to me impracticable, if not irresponsible.

At conferences with the Chairman of the Research Center for Human Relations, Dr. Stuart W. Cook, who is also head of the Graduate Department of Psychology, and with Dr. William Warner, head of the Graduate Department of Sociology, I was assured of their active interest in the project and their readiness to consider participation in its undertaking.

May I repeat my willingness to appear before your Commission to answer additional questions to which answers might be desired.

Yours very sincerely,

Max Wolff
Associate Professor of Sociology
Community Consultant